

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NOS. 2004-63-C and 2005-82-C - ORDER NO. 2006-669
NOVEMBER 13, 2006

IN RE: Docket No. 2004-63-C – BellSouth)	ORDER HOLDING
Telecommunications, Inc.,)	DOCKETS IN
)	ABEYANCE
Complaint/Petitioner,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
NewSouth Communications Corp.,)	
)	
Defendant/Respondent.)	
_____)	
and)	
)	
Docket No. 2005-82-C – Enforcement of)	
Interconnection Agreement between BellSouth)	
Telecommunications, Inc. and NuVox)	
Communications, Inc.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) to hold Docket Nos. 2005-82-C and 2004-63-C in abeyance while the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considers the proposed merger between BellSouth Corporation and AT&T, Inc. (AT&T). BellSouth states that it has consulted with counsel for NuVox Communications, Inc. (NuVox), NewSouth Communications Corp. (NewSouth), and the

Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) and has confirmed that none of these parties object to this request.

On October 11, 2006, NuVox and NewSouth filed letters proposing unopposed schedules for the filing of testimony in the two named Dockets. Subsequently, on October 13, 2006, the FCC published a Notice seeking comment on a letter that AT&T had filed with the FCC earlier that day. AT&T's letter "set[s] forth proposals made by [AT&T and BellSouth Corporation] at the request of members of the [FCC]" regarding the proposed merger. One of the "potential conditions" to the proposed merger that are discussed in AT&T's letter is: "AT&T/BellSouth shall terminate all pending audits of compliance with the [FCC's] EELs eligibility criteria and shall not initiate any new audits."

In light of this development, BellSouth requests that this Commission not adopt the schedules proposed by NuVox and NewSouth in their October 11, 2006 letters. Instead, BellSouth requests that the Commission hold these proceedings in abeyance while the FCC considers the proposed merger between BellSouth Corporation and AT&T. Further, BellSouth suggests that after the FCC reaches a decision on the proposed merger, the parties to the above-referenced dockets confer with one another and report back to the Commission regarding the status of these Dockets.

We grant BellSouth's unopposed request. The proceedings in these Dockets shall be held in abeyance while the FCC considers the proposed merger between BellSouth Corporation and AT&T. Further, after the FCC reaches a decision on the proposed

merger, the parties to these Dockets shall confer with one another and report back to the Commission regarding the status of these Dockets.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)